Volume 3, Number 2 March/April 1994

Freedom Watch

Citizens Project

Celebrate Diversity!

Citizens Project • Box 2085 • Colorado Springs, Colorado 80901 • 719-520-9899

If the words "Celebrate Diversity" don't ring any bells, chances are you don't drive much. Fifteen thousand blue and white bumper stickers sporting the phrase have been distributed, and more than a few have found their way onto bumpers in our community. Who's behind the phrase and what do they stand for?

What is Citizens Project?

In our mission statement, we describe ourselves as "a grassroots organization dedicated to upholding the traditional American values of pluralism, freedom of religion, and separation of church and state." Our vision statement outlines our goal, which is a community committed to working beyond ignorance, prejudice and fear, where differences are respected, individual rights are protected and diversity is celebrated.

"I guess to a certain degree, I want to give Citizens Project the credit for being a well-organized, well-put together group...They're not small, they're not anemic, they are not powerless, they're not the underdog and when they talk they're going to have to be contended with."

– Kevin Tebedo, Colorado For Family Values

These guiding principles make clear our commitment to the time-honored values of pluralism, equality and respect for differences. These traditional values are behind our message of "Celebrate Diversity."

What concerns Citizens Project?

We're concerned about a growing attitude of intolerance. When public policy or misinformation is used to unfairly exclude, demean or vilify those who are different — whether based on gender, race, religion or sexual orientation — we're all threatened. Hostility toward those who are different can be heard in the rhetoric of several national figures:

"You say, 'You're supposed to be nice to the Episcopalians and the Presbyterians and the Methodists and this that and the other thing — nonsense! I don't have to be nice to the spirit of the anti-Christ!"

-Rev. Pat Robertson, Christian Coalition

"Hollywood and the theater world is heavily influenced by Jewish people...This anti-Christian programming is intentional and by design."

— Rev. Don Wildmon, American Family Association

"The feminist agenda is not about equal rights for women. It is about a socialist, anti-family political movement that encourages women to leave their husbands, kill their children, practice witchcraft, destroy capitalism and become lesbians."

— Rev. Pat Robertson, Christian Coalition

"I hope to see the day when, as in the early days of our country, we won't have any public schools. The churches will have taken them over and Christians will be running them. What a happy day that will be."

— Rev. Jerry Falwell, Liberty Alliance

Locally, we see these attitudes reflected in current conflicts over multiculturalism, evolution, Outcome Based Education and sex education in our schools, unauthorized baptisms performed by Cornerstone Baptist Church, and exclusionary initiatives such as Amendment 2 and English Only.

We are particularly concerned when we see the politics of exclusion practiced in the name of religion, morality or values. Those who disagree are often falsely accused of opposing morality rather than opposing specific policies which exclude others.

Is all this the "culture war" people are talking about?

Some see it that way.

Dr. James Dobson, president of Focus on the Family, describes Colorado Springs as the "Gettysburg of the civil war of values," explaining, "You've got a very New Age, secular humanistic hostile community there who hate everything we stand for. And then you've got about 50 Christian ministries and there are a lot of Christian people. And I mean it's the border, it's the frontier of the battle for the hearts and minds of children in this civil war of values."

Focus on the Family's Vice President, Paul Hetrick, adds: "We sometimes refer to it as a

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CFV Targets the Classroom

Switching targets from "militant homosexuals" to "militant liberals," Colorado for Family Values (CFV) Executive Director Kevin Tebedo vowed his organization would be "a catalyst and a communications center" for thwarting comprehensive sex education in area schools.

Attacking all programs not "abstinence only" as dangerous and "intellectually dishonest," Tebedo warned parents to be suspicious of what goes on in their children's school. "They could write a sex ed curriculum that would make Focus on the Family smile and then turn it on its head once it gets into the classroom," he said.

"When the majority speaks in District 20, this sex ed thing is going down in flames."

– Kevin Tebedo

CFV gets 'right in the middle of it'

Appearing on the March 3rd "On the Carpet" radio program with Chuck Baker, Tebedo joined a District 20 parent in assailing what was described as an "extremely liberal pro-condom distribution, pro-homosexual-type" sex education curriculum currently under review at District 20's Challenger Middle School. Apologizing for CFV's past inactivity in public schools, Tebedo promised, "Stay with CFV, we're going to be right in the middle of it."

The radio show — and CFV's involvement — was triggered by a letter which appeared in the February 25 edition of the *Briargate Edition*. Larry Stein, a parent at Challenger Middle School, accused the school's principal of unfairly stacking the sex education curriculum review committee and expressed "outrage" over the content of the curriculum under review.

"Every reasonable effort has been made to address the sensitive nature of this subject and the differing points of view."

– Pete Cicatelli

Spreading misinformation

Specifically, Stein cites mention of autoerotica asphyxia, masturbation and homosexuality, claiming the curriculum, *Values and Choices*, teaches about or endorses all three.

Challenger principal Pete Cicatelli says Stein is spreading misinformation about the curriculum. In a letter published the following week, Cicatelli responded to Stein's charges.

Explaining that discussion of autoerotica asphyxia was included in a section called "Teacher's Guide for Parent Sessions," Cicatelli pointed out that the material was not "intended to be presented in student lessons." He also states that the issues of masturbation and homosexuality, as sensitive issues, would be approached by "providing definitions of terms and refer[ing] students to their parents." This is in marked contrast to Stein's accusation that the material taught "landlords should be forced to rent to homosexuals."

Committee members respond

Additional charges of "inflammatory remarks" were leveled at Stein by members of the curriculum review committee.

In a letter also published in the *Briargate Edition*, committee members echoed Cicatelli's remarks, explaining that "nearly all of [Stein's examples] fall under the controversial subjects that we've agreed to delete." Committee members also stressed that the curriculum is available to all Challenger parents for review, and that there are more public meetings to come.

Concern over Stein's accusations was also expressed by other committee members. During Stein's radio interview, a committee member describing herself as "extremely conservative," accused Stein of spreading information which was "not totally correct."

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Eye On Schools

District 11

Madison Elementary School – A PTA meeting at Madison Elementary School turned lively when a resolution "promoting access to information about homosexuality" was overwhelmingly defeated. The resolution, approved by the state board of the PTA, is an effort to encourage schools to develop a process to educate "parents, students. teachers, school personnel and community members" about the "harmful effects of discrimination." Currently, the resolution is up for discussion on a school-by-school basis to prepare delegates for the state convention in April. For more information, plan to attend the April 11 El Paso County Council meeting. Contact PTA's Mary Davis at 594-0398 for details.

District 20

Challenger Middle School – See story, page 1.

Rampart High School – A group of parents have approached teachers in the Rampart High School science department with their concerns that certain elements of evolution are being deliberately ignored in introductory biology classes by some teachers in the department. The teachers claim there is too much material to cover in one year. Parents, on the other hand, are concerned that material on evolution is being omitted for other reasons, citing a national trend of challenging evolution on Biblical grounds. Currently, parents are meeting with the teachers in an effort to assess how much material is not covered and if the omissions compromise student preparedness.

School Board – Charging that observing Black History Month, Martin Luther King's Birthday and Cinco de Mayo encourage racism, school board member Javier Mazetti – an outspoken critic of multicultural education – urged his fellow board members not to support a motion observing Black History Month. "I have long been a critic of any curriculum that separates by race," noted Mazetti, saying that schools should "not focus on the fact that there are accomplishments of black leaders, but of American leaders."
Although the resolution endorsing the observance of Black History Month was approved 4-1, Javier promised "I'm going to move in a positive direction so that I'm not in the same position next February." ***For more information about District 20 activities, contact Mike Fisher at 528-6920.***

CFV Targets Classroom

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Despite the round criticism of Stein's claims, the real danger is in undermining the review process, explains Sid Snyder, a member of the committee and Challenger parent. "From the beginning, with a school-wide parent survey [about sex education] and open meetings, we've encouraged parental involvement in this process. Jumping in at this point with a lot of outrageous claims and threats from CFV is a not so thinly veiled effort to sabotage months of hard work," he said.

Further, Cicatelli explains, "The process has moved along at a cautious pace to make sure every reasonable effort has been made to address the sensitive nature of this subject and the differing points of view."

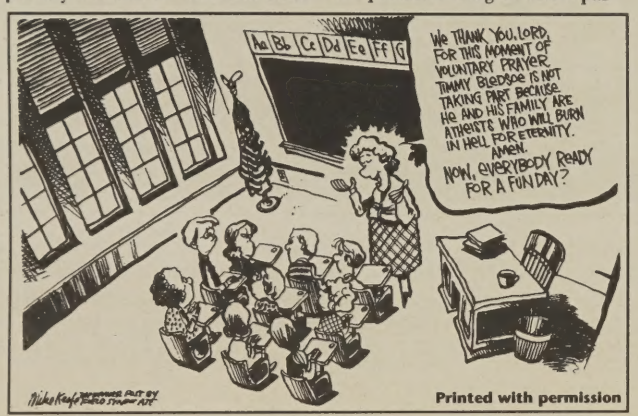
Concerns over Citizens Project

Several times, Stein and Tebedo made reference to Citizens Project being represented on the committee.

While Sid Snyder is active with Citizens Project, other committee members share affiliations with organizations as diverse as Focus on the Family, Moms In Touch, National Right to Life and Campus Crusade for Christ, among others.

According to Snyder, participation in an organization should not preclude being an active parent. Snyder says he represents only what he believes is best for his children and students at Challenger Middle School. "This process is difficult enough without introducing the red herring of organizational affiliations."

By the end of his radio appearance, Tebedo was encouraging CFV supporters in Academy District 20 to contact his office, predicting "When the majority speaks in District 20, this sex ed thing is going down in flames." **CP**


Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff G
WE THANK YOU, LORD, FOR THIS MOMENT OF VOLUNTARY PRAYER. TIMMY BIEDSOE IS NOT TAKING PART BECAUSE HE AND HIS FAMILY ARE ATHEISTS WHO WILL BURN IN HELL FOR ETERNITY. AMEN.
NOW, EVERYBODY READY FOR A FUN DAY?
Printed with permission

Update: Last week the District 20 School Board approved a "Statement of Understanding" on sex education. The statement emphasizes abstinence and allows for the discussion of "contraceptive information." The statement was approved by a vote of 3-1. Board member Jill Grossman, the dissenting vote, expressed concern that the new policy was not fully discussed and did not include community opinion. Last week's vote signals the start of District 20's effort to work through an approach to sex education. District 20 residents interested in this issue should contact District 20 parent Mike Fisher at 520-6920. Also, for more information on the sex education controversy, plan to attend our May 3 "First Tuesday" meeting.

Celebrate Diversity!

[Continued from Page 1]

third world war between those who defend and respect family and traditional values and those who reject them. We do not believe those two can coexist..."

War creates casualties. At Citizens Project, we believe that people can and must coexist in our community. We want people with differing worldviews to find a way to live together peaceably.

True, we face difficult and divisive public issues such as racial discrimination, gay rights, sex education and abortion. Compromise is not always possible or desirable. But if we continue to view all differences as warfare — you're with me or you're against me — rather than recognizing a spectrum of legitimate beliefs and a significant base of shared values, our community will continue to be unnecessarily divided.

One of the unfortunate effects of a warfare mentality is the need for an often exaggerated and dehumanized "enemy." Proponents of a warfare perspective are often quick to label those who disagree with them as "anti-Christian" or "amoral." Colorado for Family Values Director, Kevin Tebedo, recently jumped on that bandwagon when he accused Citizens Project of "opposing any vestige of the Judeo-Christian morals."

Citizens Project, which includes many individuals of firm Christian and Judeo beliefs, would like to help increase our community's commitment to civility and shared solutions without the need to resort to war or warfare language. Further, we work to accomplish this without compromising the basic American values of inclusion and equality.

> **"The public square is just that: public. We all share it, and we all have a responsibility to keep it open and hospitable to a diverse group of people."**

Pretty serious concerns. What do you actually do about them?

Basically, our work consists of two sides of one coin: countering intolerance and creating understanding.

Recently, Christine Whitman, the newly elected Republican governor of New Jersey, remarked, "Intolerance and bigotry cannot survive the light of day." Exposing incidents, charged rhetoric and willful misinformation to the "light of day" is our best defense against their taking hold in our community.

We provide information through *Freedom Watch*, candidate surveys, workshops, issue papers, and research on controversial issues. By providing this kind of information to the community, and encouraging participation through workshops and neighborhood and schools activities, we seek to empower different voices in our community, as well as encourage people to speak out against intolerance.

> **"Unless we change direction, we are likely to end up where we are headed."**
>
> ***— Chinese proverb***

While active intolerance may be the most visible threat to civility and respect in our community, a simple lack of contact between various community members can create an atmosphere where negative assumptions and stereotypes thrive. In an effort to facilitate better communication and understanding, Citizens Project is involved in sponsoring "Dialogue Dinners." These are small gatherings of people with different worldviews who are genuinely open to considering the ideas of others. These groups discuss views and politics, explore common ground, and inevitably challenge stereotypes.

But aren't you intolerant of those with whom you disagree?

No. We are, however, intolerant of unjust intolerance. Again, we stand by the values of pluralism and inclusivity. Full participation means everyone, even those with whom we disagree.

When protesters disrupted services at Village Seven Presbyterian Church to decry the congregation's support for Amendment 2, Citizens Project publicly criticized the activity as being disrespectful of religious liberty — despite our differences with the church's minister on Amendment 2 and other issues.

Nonetheless, while we fully support the rights and participation of those we disagree with, we will continue to spotlight rhetoric and actions that promote exclusion and divisiveness in our community.

Where do you stand on religious liberty and separation of church and state?

We believe they're inseparable. The freedom to practice one's religion is an integral part of the pluralistic fabric of this country — many faiths coexist, and all are free to inform public policy. Government neutrality on matters of religion — separation of church and state — guarentees the freedom for people of all faiths to practice as they believe and ensures that those without faith can participate fully.

Separation of church and state is sometimes seen as an attempt to keep religion out of the public square. This is not true. Religion is a deeply felt, basic part of the lives of many citizens, and this faith is rightfully carried with our representatives into public life. However, one's faith cannot be the basis for denying or limiting the full equality and participation of others. The public square is just that: public. We all share it, and we all have a responsibility to keep it open and hospitable to diverse perspectives.

So does inclusion mean "anything goes?"

Of course not. Some argue, however, that the only way to be "moral" or support "traditional values" is to exclude. Unfortunately, this exclusion often extends to individuals who are merely different.

When Thomas Jefferson wrote "It does me no injury for my neighbor to say there are 20 gods, or no God. It neither picks my pocket nor breaks my leg," he touched on an ethic central to this country's blossoming liberty and tolerance: our willingness to afford one another respect despite our differences, and our recognition that our neighbor's rights are as important as our own. We believe that most moral values and standards of behavior are held in common — honesty, responsibility, integrity, courage and compassion to name a few — and that we should join together to reinforce these shared values. We also believe that when our values differ, we must explore these differences in light of the equally important values of fairness, justice, equality and individuality. We cannot build a healthy community until we learn to acknowledge our commonalities and deal civilly with our differences. **CP**

News Briefs

Barney is an abomination?

Barney, the purple dinosaur on the popular PBS kids show, is "straight out of the New Age and the world of demons and devils," says Rev. Joseph Chambers of North Carolina's Paw Creek Ministries. "He leads kids into a world of miracles and fantasy [which is] the antithesis to the Scripture." Barney, says Rev. Chambers, is an "abomination unto the Lord." Beth Ryan, spokesperson for the company that produces Barney, disagrees: "Barney is warm and friendly and loving and teaches children to accept other people and their differences."

Mississippi school prayer uproar continues

A Jackson, Mississippi principal allowed short prayers to be read by students over the school's public address system last November. The principal was suspended, and conservative Christian groups then lobbied Mississippi politicians to allow mandatory prayers in public schools. The Mississippi House complied, approving a bill that would allow school-wide broadcasts of prayers initiated by students and also prayer at school events. When Mississippi's Governor stated that students of all religions should be given equal access to a school's public address system for these prayers, however, he caused some groups to have second thoughts. Such equal access, said the conservative *Biblical Worldview* magazine, would be anti-Christian, since "Christianity will be just one religion among many." In addition, continued the *Biblical Worldview* editorial, school prayers honoring the religions of all students will lead straight into a cesspool of secular humanism "since religious pluralism leads to ethical pluralism."

Ohio may probe CFV

Colorado For Family Values, which gave $390,000 to a Cincinnati anti-gay rights group to help them win at the polls, may be investigated by the Hamilton (Ohio) County Board of Elections. By providing such money to a group in support of a ballot matter, CFV may be acting as a political action committee under Ohio law, and must then disclose its funding sources. CFV has refused to disclose its donors, insisting that its support in the Ohio election did not make CFV a political action committee.

New study on sex education

A literature review undertaken by California's ETR Associates has found that exposure to sexuality and AIDS-education school curricula does not lead teenagers to engage in sex at younger ages and increases neither the frequency of intercourse nor the number of sexual partners. The report was released at a conference of the conservative American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C. If you would like a copy of the ETR study use the sign-up form on page four of this newsletter, and we will send one to you.

AFA spawns local group

Colorado Springs has a new anti-pornography group, Moms Against Pornography (MOP). As reported in the *Gazette Telegraph*, MOP founder Jennifer Mohl got the idea for the group from the American Family Association, the Mississippi-based organization promoting a "biblical ethic of decency." MOP's targets include Playboy, ABC-TV's award-winning "NYPD Blue," and provocative commercials. According to local District Attorney John Suthers, however, hard-core pornography is not a serious problem in Colorado Springs.

Religious harassment protections

The federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has proposed guidelines to protect employees from on-the-job religious harassment. The guidelines would prohibit "verbal or physical conduct" in the workplace that demeans an individual because of his or her religion. This worries some Christian right groups. "Christian employers' right to speak freely about their faith in the workplace could be seriously curtailed," says Traditional Values Coalition, a sentiment echoed by both Dr. Dobson of Focus on the Family and Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition. Complaints from these and other groups have delayed implementation of these religious harassment protections for employees.

IT'S CAUCUS TIME!

Caucus-for what? April 5 is caucus day for the Republican and Democratic parties. Caucuses are small meetings, held at the precinct level, to elect the precinct party officials and convention delegates who will be the precinct's representatives at the county and possibly state party conventions. These conventions will choose the candidates to run for governmental offices in the later elections.

Why should I attend? If you want input into candidates and party policies, caucuses are the place to start. These caucus meetings are generally small, informal, and friendly, and they put you in on the ground floor of the local political process.

Who can attend? Anyone can attend a caucus. But there are limitations on voting at a caucus. You can vote if you are 18, a citizen, have resided in the precinct for 25 days, and have been affiliated with the political party for the preceding 60 days.

Where is my party caucus meeting? Look for signs in your neighborhood announcing the caucus location, or call your county clerk or party headquarters for the location of your precinct caucus. The number for the El Paso Clerk's office is 520-6225; the Teller County Clerk's office is 689-2951 or 687-0701.

Where can I get more information? Watch your local newspaper for advance information on caucuses. Call your political party headquarters for information: look in the business white pages in your phone book under "Democratic" or "Republican." Talk to your existing precinct party officials (you may need to call party headquarters to find out who they are). Or, stop by the Citizens Project office – we have a free *You And Your Caucus* handout with helpful hints so you can get the most out of your caucus meeting. CP

Freedom Watch Sponsors

This *Freedom Watch* was made possible with assistance from the following sponsors – If you would like to help sponsor the publication of *Freedom Watch*, please contact Douglas Triggs at (719) 634-2836.

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Legal Updates

How can anyone vote for obscenity?

What do Mark Twain, Sigmund Freud and Walt Disney have in common? You're right – their works have all been found to be obscene (Walt Disney's 1960s documentary on the "vanishing prairie" was banned by the Chicago Police Board of Censorship for showing the birth of a calf). And what books have been challenged in libraries as obscene? Well, those would include *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *A Farewell to Arms* (Ernest Hemingway), *The Great Gatsby* (F. Scott Fitzgerald), *Clan of the Cave Bear* (Jean Auel), *A Separate Peace* (John Knowles), and *Tarzan* (Edgar Rice Burroughs). Also challenged has been that "obscene" video, *E.T.*

Here in Colorado, you may get a chance to vote on obscenity and free speech. The Colorado Senate has been struggling with a resolution that would put on your election ballot a measure to use the federal obscenity standard for Colorado court cases. And in the event the Senate should not approve that resolution for a state-wide vote, proponents of the resolution have vowed to obtain the necessary signatures to force the measure onto the ballot.

Why vote to bring the feds into Colorado? That's the part that confuses the Senators. According to some legal experts, the federal standard for obscenity is already incorporated thoroughly into Colorado law through the holding in the 1989 Colorado Supreme Court case, *People v. Ford*. Proponents of the ballot proposal disagree: they believe that Colorado's law on obscenity is somewhat more liberal than the federal standard, and they want that changed.

Testimony at the Senate hearings covered not only whether the proposed law, if approved by voters, would change the prevailing standard for obscenity in Colorado, but also whether any tougher new obscenity law would be beneficial on balance. Proponents, chiefly the Coalition Helping to Insure Laws for Dignity (CHILD), say that tougher laws would help curb pornography and sex crimes. However, the only state prosecutor to speak in favor of the resolution flew in from Florida; no Colorado District Attorneys testified to support the resolution.

Opponents, including librarians and the owner of Denver's large Tattered Cover bookstore, spoke in favor of maintaining our present strong standards for freedom of speech. They fear that tougher laws would be used to promote censorship by forcing them to know the contents of every book that they handle or sell, or face prosecution. Others, such as Planned Parenthood, are concerned that the law would be used to ban them from distributing educational materials that describe sexual activities.

Florida's "Amendment 2" strikes out

The Florida Supreme Court has thrown out the attempt by the American Family Association of Florida to have voters decide whether to prohibit protection from discrimination for gays and lesbians. By a vote of 6-0, the Supreme Court struck the measure from the ballot on procedural grounds.

Freedom From Religion loses

Denver's Freedom From Religion Foundation successfully sued last year to prohibit Denver's Mayor Webb from using official stationary to promote a December "day of prayer" held by the Colorado Council of Churches to oppose youth violence. Recently the Foundation tried to go further, attempting to get a court order prohibiting Governor Romer and Mayor Webb from attending a March prayer luncheon in Denver.

The Denver District Court judge, noting that no state or city funds were being used to support the prayer meeting, swiftly denied the request for an injunction, saying that government officials don't lose their right to pray or worship in public simply by being elected to public office. Governor Romer testified at the hearing that "People who govern should take religion very seriously, because government should take anything seriously that shapes the behavior of people."

Alliance Defense Fund forms

Major conservative Christian groups recently formed a nationwide group, the Alliance Defense Fund, to raise money for new legal cases involving "religious liberties, human life, and family values throughout America." The national evangelical leaders involved include Dr. Bill Bright of Campus Crusade for Christ, Dr. James Dobson of Focus on the Family, Dr. D. James Kennedy of Florida's Coral Ridge Ministries, and Rev. Donald Wildmon of the American Family Association. As set out in the ADF press release, one of the concerns of the Alliance Defense Fund will be "attempts to prevent religious organizations from participating in so called 'political activities.'" The group expects a $6 million budget by 1995. However, not all conservative legal groups approve of this new umbrella organization. The Rutherford Institute, a prominent Virginia-based legal advocacy group, refused to join the ADF, stating that ADF is an unnecessary bureaucracy that will waste money on administrative costs and salaries.

RMFC forms legal foundation

Rocky Mountain Family Council, an independent political offshoot of Focus on the Family, recently formed its own legal foundation – the Rocky Mountain Family Legal Foundation. Foundation directors include attorney Tom McMillen of RMFC, former U.S. Attorney Mike Norton, and Martin Nussbaum from Colorado Springs. According to RMFC, the Denver-based legal foundation was formed to help Christians in the areas of free speech, religious liberty, employment discrimination, separation of church and state, and abortion malpractice. Before filing lawsuits, however, the legal foundation will try to "educate the other side about how to be sensitive to the needs of Christians in the community."

Announcements

Gay community fights child abuse

Join Ground Zero, Equality Colorado, the Gill Foundation and PFLAG on Saturday, April 23, as they help fight child abuse. These organizations will sponsor the Cheshire Ball, a benefit for the Child Advocacy and Protection Team at Denver's Children's Hospital and other child abuse prevention programs. The event is at Norwest Bank Atrium located at 1740 Broadway in Denver. For more information, contact any of the sponsoring organizations or the Cheshire Ball Office at 303-894-3698.

Beyond prejudice in films

University of Colorado-Colorado Springs (UCCS) has a special film series entitled "Beyond Prejudice: Fascism and Authoritarianism in International Film." Upcoming films are: *April Sideburns* (Russian totalitarianism); April 15 *The Damned* (Fascism in Italy); and April 22 *Vienna Before the Fall* (Austrian Fascism). All films, with commentary, are shown in Science 126 at UCCS at 7 p.m. and are free. For more information, call John Miller at UCCS, extension 3108.

Remembering the Holocaust

Colorado College will host a week-long series of events which will profile the Holocaust beginning April 10. Included is a presentation on April 14 by Michael Barenbaum, Director of the U.S. Holocaust Research Institute, featuring the Holocaust Memorial Museum. It starts at 7:30 p.m. in Packard Hall. On April 15 at 11 a.m., also in Packard Hall, Barenbaum will be giving a talk entitled "A Mosiac of Victims: Jews and Non-Jews Persecuted and Murdered by the Nazis." For more information contact the Office of College Relations at 389-6603.

Gay rights and Straight America

Richard D. Mohr, noted lecturer and author, will speak about his newest book, A More Perfect Union: Why Straight America Must Stand Up for Gay Rights. Mohr speaks April 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in Gates Common Room on the Colorado College campus. Richard Mohr's lecture is sponsored by Ground Zero, Citizens Project, All Souls Unitarian Church, CC-BGALA, PFLAG, La Guia and the Colorado Springs Minority Coalition. For more information call 635-6086.

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Yes, I would like to help support Citizens Project.
Enclosed is my contribution of:

❑ $15 ❑ $30 ❑ $50 ❑ $100 ❑ Other

Contributors of $15 or more will receive future issues of *Freedom Watch* and candidate surveys by mail, and will also receive special notices about Citizens Project activities.

❑ **Yes, I want to attend the April 29 "Going Ape Over Teachers" Party at the Zoo!**

Please send me ___ tickets and detailed information. (Tickets are $25 per person in advance, $30 at the door)

❑ **Please send the following information mentioned in this *Freedom Watch:***

Available for a suggested donation of $2 each

- ○ Two back issues of *Freedom Watch*
- ○ The ETR Associates Sex Education study
- ○ Neighborhood Group Handbook

Available for free

- ○ *You and Your Caucus* Issue Paper
- ○ Free "Celebrate Diversity" bumper sticker

Name _____

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❑ Enclosed is my check for $_____ for the items marked above.

❑ Please charge my: ○ MasterCard ○ Visa

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Mail to: Citizens Project, Box 2085, Colorado Springs, CO 80901.
Thank you for your support. Please note contributions are not tax deductible.

Dialogue Dinners

Our community is not without acrimony or misunderstanding. As Citizens Project has progressed, we have become keenly aware of the untrue assumptions that are made about our supporters, as well as our own tendencies to make assumptions about others. We have come to believe that one key to breaking down destructive stereotypes and working toward common solutions is communication.

Toward this end, we have worked with a core group of thirty-five people to test a concept called "Dialogue Dinners." The idea is simple — six to ten people representing different world views meet for dinner and to discuss beliefs, attitudes and issues. To date, four groups have met three times each. In early April these participants will meet to discuss ways to extend these dinners to the wider community.

Watch these pages for more information. CP

Neighborhood Groups

Over the last few months, Citizens Project has encouraged citizens to meet with their neighbors to discuss issues of concern to themselves, their neighborhood, and their community. A number of neighborhood groups have formed and are active. Some groups socialize, some are learning more about public policy issues in our community, and others are beginning civic improvement projects.

If you are interested in starting your own neighborhood group, you can stop by our office for a copy of our Neighborhood Group Handbook (available for a recommended donation of $2). Or, you can call Citizens Project for the name of the neighborhood group coordinator in your area. CP

Inside CP

Newest board additions

Citizens Project is delighted to announce our two newest board members — Pastor Jesse Brown, Jr. and Altresa Williams. Pastor Jesse Brown, Jr. is senior minister at Payne Chapel, African Methodist Episcopal Church, a board member of the Pikes Peak Urban League, president of the El Paso County Ministerial Union, and is active in District 11. Altresa is acting president of the Colorado Springs Minority Coalition and has given much of her time to Citizens Project in the past several months. We are privileged to welcome these fine individuals.

Volunteer updates

Heartfelt thanks to all of our current volunteers. We've had tremendous help with important office work from over a dozen people, and it's made a real difference. In particular, we're pleased that Gene Finkelstein has been contributing nearly thirty hours a week to help keep the office running smoothly. Without you, we couldn't do what we do.

Are you qualified? We need people with professional bartending skills for our April benefit. We also need someone with event organizing experience to handle our Walk-A-Thon and Silent Auction coming later in '94.

To get involved, contact Marj or Christine at the office, 520-9899.

Going ape over teachers

Please join us for our Spring fundraiser and party when we celebrate the many contributions of area teachers. Guests of honor will be former Governor Dick Lamm and his wife Dottie, a Denver Post columnist. For more information, look for the ape on this page. Also, for those who can help, we need a sponsors for the Zoo Mobile which will deliver guests to the Primate House at Cheyenne Mountain Zoo.

Freedom Watch grows

As you've no doubt noticed, we've increased the circulation of *Freedom Watch*. We are now a paid insert in *The Colorado Springs Independent*. Beginning the last Wednesday in April, *Freedom Watch* will be available the last Wednesday of every other month on the following dates: **April 27, June 29, August 31, October 26 and December 28.** For those who miss *The Independent*, call our office for the nearest distribution location. For a donation of $15, we'll mail Freedom Watch to you at home. See coupon to the left.

First Tuesday Forum

There will be no April "First Tuesday" meeting so that everyone can attend local party caucuses. Make plans now to attend our May "First Tueaday" meeting when we'll host a panel discussion on the growing controversy over sex education in public education. Speakers and more information to be announced in our April 27 issue of *Freedon Watch*. After the discussion, there will be time for informal question and answers about what Citizens Project is doing and what's going on in our community. Watch for more on this in our next *Freedom Watch*.

Then and Now

On love and discrimination in American politics...

"Segregation wasn't about hate."

– Former Alabama governor George Wallace, famous for his defiant 1963 declaration "Segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever!"

"[N]othing about CFV nor amendment 2 had anything at all to do with hatred toward homosexuals."

– Stephen Bransford, CFV's former media advisor, in Gay Politics vs. Colorado, *his new book describing Colorado for Family Values 1992 Amendment 2 campaign.*

Please join Citizens Project as we honor area teachers at our

Going Ape Over Teachers

Spring Fundraiser

Our guests of honor will be
Former Governor Dick and Ms. Dottie Lamm

April 29, 1994
Cheyenne Mountain Zoo
Primate House

Tickets $25 in advance; $30 at the door

To RSVP, call Citizens Project, 520-9899